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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
16 EDISON DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

**Maine EMS Education Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, April 14, 1999**

Present: P. Marcolini (Chairman), J. Caron, D. Palladino, L. Worden, B. Davis, G. Miller, B. Demchak, S. Shapleigh, L. Delano, C. Boehm, B. Zito, D. Robishaw

Staff: D. Corning, D. White

I. Call to Order - 9:30 a.m.

- a. **Introductions** - Introductions were made and Jim Caron was welcomed as the new representative from Aroostook EMS, replacing Roy Woods.
- b. **Assign Timekeeper and Scribe** - S. Shapleigh agreed to keep time and D. Corning to scribe.
- c. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda** - No additions or changes to agenda.

II. Acceptance of Minutes

- a. February 10, 1999 Minutes: **Motion to accept minutes as presented. (Demchak: Palladino) Passed**

III. Staff Report:

- i) Pending Legislation: LD 52 addresses the number of lights firefighters and EMS providers may have on their personal vehicles, defeated unless the house & senate come up with an agreeable compromise. LD 678 addresses AVOC requirements for ambulance operators driving in the emergency mode or when there is a patient on board. This bill will be carried over to the 2nd session (2000) with a requirement that EMS be added to a group studying emergency responses by police, fire, and EMS, which will include recommendations for driver training requirements. LD 1129 is an act to amend the laws pertaining to the Maine HIV Advisory Committee. This proposal looks at modifying the composition of the HIV Advisory Committee, MEMS will be monitoring this LD. LD 1385 is an act to allow EMT's to draw blood samples for alcohol analysis. This LD is no longer necessary due to PL 32, which will allow anyone trained & licensed to draw blood to do so for BA purposes. LD 1473 is the act to amend the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982. This is a Department sponsored bill that makes a number of mostly housekeeping changes to the EMS Law. Came out of committee Ought To Pass. LD 1543 is an act to Create the Bicycle Safety Act. MEMS will monitor this LD, which has had the hearing, and is not yet scheduled for a work session. LD 1707 is an act to Extend Certain Survivor Benefits to the Spouses of Emergency Medical Services Providers. MEMS will

testify in support of this bill, which came out of committee Ought To Pass - Amended LD 1791 is an act to promote effective management of occupational exposure to HIV, which MEMS is supporting. It is scheduled for a work session today (4/14) at 1:30 p.m.

- ii) The National Safety Council has requested approval of their Professional CPR program as meeting the Maine EMS Rules §2.I. CPR Certification as an equivalent course. Dwight asked if anyone has had any dealings with this program, or is aware of any problems that should prohibit this from occurring. Dwight will check with the NREMT's to see if they accept this program, there were no other concerns raised.

IV. **Old Business:**

- a. **EMS/TC Task Force** - Another meeting of the EMS/TC Task Force has not been scheduled until the Education Committee gets a little further along on their task of developing recommendations for entry standards for First Responder and EMT courses.
- b. **EMT-Intermediate** - The letter went out to the currently licensed Intermediates, and a significant response was received, with a general sense that most seem to be in favor. The surveys have not been reviewed yet for specific results, but will be soon, with a report going to the Operations Team.
- c. **I/C Program** - Dwight circulated a draft for I/C certification/recertification/decertification. One issue raised was the expense and time involvement necessary if we mandated 12 and 24 hours of CEH's on educational issues for instructors. There was concern that this could be burdensome to some, especially for instructors in the more remote areas, but it was also discussed that programs that would meet this requirement are available from all of the university branches in the state, as well as the potential for programs taken utilizing distance learning methodology. Dwight will continue to work on this proposal, and will prepare an updated proposal for the next Education Committee meeting.
- d. **CEH Requirements** - Dwight circulated the draft CEH proposal table. This document eliminates the skills lab requirement, but takes the 4 hours previously assigned to skills lab and adds that into the CEH hours required. The proposed categories would be Operations, BLS Topics, BLS Skills, ALS Topics, ALS Skills, and Electives. (Electives includes excess hours from any category, or programs that do not "fit" into any other category, such as enrichment type classes). If the Education Committee approves this draft (or something similar) staff will work on an implementation plan so people can move from the old system to the new without losing any previously earned hours. Staff will also need to work on reviewing all of the programs that have "pre-assigned" CEH's to reassign those hours as is appropriate, and will work on a rational statement. **MOTION: To approve the new Continuing Education Requirements as presented on the "CEH Proposal for Education Committee April 14, 1999 Meeting" document. (Boehm/Delano) Passed 11-0-0**
- e. **Distance Learning: MOTION: While the Education Committee supports the concept of distance education, it also recognizes that there are many different forms of distance education. Because of these various forms, the Education Committee will evaluate each course application on an individual basis. The**

sponsoring organization will be asked to demonstrate in writing how the distance learning program will fulfill the learning objectives of a particular course or program. In order to expedite the review process, the Education Committee will have a subcommittee to review a request for approval for a distance learning program, and will make a recommendation to the Education Committee. Course approval for a course leading to licensure is still dependent upon Regional Approval.

(Boehm/Demchak) Passed 10-0-1 The Education

Committee assigned Marcolini, Palladino, Davis, and Boehm to the Review Committee.

f. **Entry Standards for First Responder &**

EMT-Basic Courses - Dwight presented a draft document entitled

“Entry Standards for First Responder and EMT-Basic Programs”, with the following 3 standards:

- 1) Current American Heart Association Health Care Provider (or equivalent).

Motion: To accept this standard.

(Boehm/Delano) Passed

- 2) Proof of Immunizations: **Motion: To remove this as an entry requirement. (Boehm/Caron)**

Passed 10-0-1

- 3) Successful completion of a standardized reading comprehension test or an Associates Degree or higher from a post secondary institution. Reading comprehension will be a minimum of the 4th grade level for entrance into a First Responder program, and at the 9th grade level for entrance into an EMT-Basic program. (These age levels are estimates at this time and will be modified based on input from the publishers of appropriate texts and the National Registry of EMT's). **Motion: To use a reading test, set for the appropriate levels, as a tool, not as a way to deny entry into a program. Failure of the test will lead to counseling of the student as to their potential for success in the program.**

(Boehm/Palladino) Passed 5-4-0

V. **New Business:**

- a. **Instructor Requirements to Provide First Responder Update Training: Motion: To table this discussion until next month to allow the Education Committee time to review the Exam Committee Recommendations document.**

(Boehm/Zito) Failed 1-6-0 Discussion took place on whether

an instructor needs to be a MEMS I/C, or if the program can be taught by any instructor. The discussion lead to the fact that although this is not technically “a course leading to licensure” it is

certainly a course that allows the individual to remain licensed, based on new training at that licensure level. **Motion: To consider the First Responder transition program as a program leading to licensure, and MEMS Instructor/Coordinator involvement will be the same as any other program leading to licensure. (Palladino/Demchak)**
Passed 6-3-1

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

**Next Meeting May 12, 1999
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Please RSVP**

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Corning
Scribe